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(54) Cloning of human GPR14 receptor

Human GPR14 polypeptides and polynucle-(57)otides and methods for producing such polypeptides by recombinant techniques are disclosed. Also disclosed are methods for utilizing Human GPR14 polypeptides and polynucleotides in the design of protocols for the treatment of infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles dela Tourett's syndrome, among others and diagnostic assays for such conditions.

Description

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FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to newly identified polynucleotides, polypeptides encoded by them and to the use of such polynucleotides and polypeptides, and to their production. More particularly, the polynucleotides and polypeptides of the present invention relate to G-Protein coupled receptor, hereinafter referred to as Human GPR14. The invention also relates to inhibiting or activating the action of such polynucleotides and polypeptides.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is well established that many medically significant biological processes are mediated by proteins participating in signal transduction pathways that involve G-proteins and/or second messengers, e.g., cAMP (Lefkowitz, Nature, 1991, 351:353-354). Herein these proteins are referred to as proteins participating in pathways with G-proteins or PPG proteins. Some examples of these proteins include the GPC receptors, such as those for adrenergic agents and dopamine (Kobilka, B.K., et al., Proc. Natl Acad. Sci., USA, 1987, 84:46-50; Kobilka, B.K., et al., Science, 1987, 238:650-656; Bunzow, J.R., et al., Nature, 1988, 336:783-787), G-proteins themselves, effector proteins, e.g., phospholipase C, adenyl cyclase, and phosphodiesterase, and actuator proteins, e.g., protein kinase A and protein kinase C (Simon, M.I., et al., Science, 1991, 252:802-8).

For example, in one form of signal transduction, the effect of hormone binding is activation of the enzyme, adenylate cyclase, inside the cell. Enzyme activation by hormones is dependent on the presence of the nucleotide GTP. GTP also influences hormone binding. A G-protein connects the hormone receptor to adenylate cyclase. G-protein was shown to exchange GTP for bound GDP when activated by a hormone receptor. The GTP-carrying form then binds to activated adenylate cyclase. Hydrolysis of GTP to GDP, catalyzed by the G-protein itself returns the G-protein to its basal, inactive form. Thus, the G-protein serves a dual role, as an intermediate that relays the signal from receptor to effector, and as a clock that controls the duration of the signal.

The membrane protein gene superfamily of G-protein coupled receptors has been characterized as having seven putative transmembrane domains. The domains are believed to represent transmembrane a-helices connected by extracellular or cytoplasmic loops. G-protein coupled receptors include a wide range of biologically active receptors, such as hormone, viral, growth factor and neuroreceptors.

G-protein coupled receptors have been characterized as including these seven conserved hydrophobic stretches of about 20 to 30 amino acids, connecting at least eight divergent hydrophilic loops. The G-protein family of coupled receptors includes dopamine receptors which bind to neuroleptic drugs used for treating psychotic and neurological disorders. Other examples of members of this family include, but are not limited to, calcitonin, adrenergic, endothelin, cAMP, adenosine, muscarinic, acetylcholine, serotonin, histamine, thrombin, kinin, follicle stimulating hormone, opsins, endothelial differentiation gene-1, rhodopsins, odorant, and cytomegalovirus receptors.

Most G-protein coupled receptors (or otherwise known as 7TM receptors) have single conserved cysteine residues in each of the first two extracellular loops which form disulfide bonds that are believed to stabilize functional protein structure. The 7 transmembrane regions are designated as TM1, TM2, TM3, TM4, TM5, TM6, and TM7. TM3 has been implicated in signal transduction.

Phosphorylation and lipidation (palmitylation or farnesylation) of cysteine residues can influence signal transduction of some G-protein coupled receptors. Most G-protein coupled receptors contain potential phosphorylation sites within the third cytoplasmic loop and/or the carboxy terminus. For several G-protein coupled receptors, such as the b-adrenoreceptor, phosphorylation by protein kinase A and/or specific receptor kinases mediates receptor desensitization.

For some receptors, the ligand binding sites of G-protein coupled receptors are believed to comprise hydrophilic sockets formed by several G-protein coupled receptor transmembrane domains, said socket being surrounded by hydrophobic residues of the G-protein coupled receptors. The hydrophilic side of each G-protein coupled receptor transmembrane helix is postulated to face inward and form polar ligand binding site. TM3 has been implicated in several G-protein coupled receptors as having a ligand binding site, such as the TM3 aspartate residue. TM5 serines, a TM6 asparagine and TM6 or TM7 phenylalanines or tyrosines are also implicated in ligand binding.

G-protein coupled receptors can be intracellularly coupled by heterotrimeric G-proteins to various intracellular enzymes, ion channels and transporters (see, Johnson et al., Endoc. Rev., 1989, 10:317-331) Different G-protein asubunits preferentially stimulate particular effectors to modulate various biological functions in a cell. Phosphorylation of cytoplasmic residues of G-protein coupled receptors have been identified as an important mechanism for the regulation of G-protein coupling of some G-protein coupled receptors. G-protein coupled receptors are found in numerous sites within a mammalian host.

Over the past 15 years, nearly 350 therapeutic agents targeting 7 transmembrane (7 TM) receptors have been suc-

cessfully introduced onto the market.

This indicates that these receptors have an established, proven history as therapeutic targets. Clearly there is a need for identification and characterization of further receptors which can play a role in preventing, ameliorating or correcting dysfunctions or diseases, including, but not limited to, infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles dela Tourett's syndrome.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the invention relates to Human GPR14 polypeptides and recombinant materials and methods for their production. Another aspect of the invention relates to methods for using such Human GPR14 polypeptides and polynucleotides. Such uses include the treatment of infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles dela Tourett's syndrome, among others. In still another aspect, the invention relates to methods to identify agonists and antagonists using the materials provided by the invention, and treating conditions associated with Human GPR14 imbalance with the identified compounds. Yet another aspect of the invention relates to diagnostic assays for detecting diseases associated with inappropriate Human GPR14 activity or levels.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence of Human GPR14. SEQ ID NOS: 1 and 2.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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Definitions

The following definitions are provided to facilitate understanding of certain terms used frequently herein.

"Human GPR14" refers generally to a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or an allelic variant thereof.

"Receptor Activity" or "Biological Activity of the Receptor" refers to the metabolic or physiologic function of said Human GPR14 including similar activities or improved activities or these activities with decreased undesirable side-effects. Also included are antigenic and immunogenic activities of said Human GPR14.

"Human GPR14 polypeptides" refers to polypeptides with amino acid sequences sufficiently similar to Human GPR14 sequences, preferably exhibiting at least one biological activity of the receptor.

"Human GPR14 gene" refers to a polynucleotide having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or allelic variants thereof and/or their complements.

"Human GPR14 polynucleotides" refers to polynucleotides containing a nucleotide sequence which encodes a Human GPR14 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or a nucleotide sequence which has at least 75.9% identity to a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or the corresponding fragment thereof, or a nucleotide sequence which has sufficient identity to a nucleotide sequence contained in SEQ ID NO:1 to hybridize under conditions useable for amplification or for use as a probe or marker.

"Antibodies" as used herein includes polydonal and monoclonal antibodies, chimeric, single chain, and humanized antibodies, as well as Fab fragments, including the products of an Fab or other immunoglobulin expression library.

"Isolated" means altered "by the hand of man" from the natural state. If an "isolated" composition or substance occurs in nature, it has been changed or removed from its original environment, or both. For example, a polynucleotide or a polypeptide naturally present in a living animal is not "isolated," but the same polynucleotide or polypeptide separated from the coexisting materials of its natural state is "isolated", as the term is employed herein.

"Polynucleotide" generally refers to any polyribonucleotide or polydeoxribonucleotide, which may be unmodified RNA or DNA or modified RNA or DNA. "Polynucleotides" include, without limitation single- and double-stranded DNA, DNA that is a mixture of single- and double-stranded regions, single- and double-stranded RNA, and RNA that is mixture of single- and double-stranded regions, hybrid molecules comprising DNA and RNA that may be single-stranded or, more typically, double-stranded or a mixture of single- and double-stranded regions. In addition, "polynucleotide"

refers to triple-stranded regions comprising RNA or DNA or both RNA and DNA. The term polynucleotide also includes DNAs or RNAs containing one or more modified bases and DNAs or RNAs with backbones modified for stability or for other reasons. "Modified" bases include, for example, tritylated bases and unusual bases such as inosine. A variety of modifications has been made to DNA and RNA; thus, "polynucleotide" embraces chemically, enzymatically or metabolically modified forms of polynucleotides as typically found in nature, as well as the chemical forms of DNA and RNA characteristic of viruses and cells. "Polynucleotide" also embraces relatively short polynucleotides, often referred to as oligonucleotides.

"Polypeptide" refers to any peptide or protein comprising two or more amino acids joined to each other by peptide bonds or modified peptide bonds, i.e., peptide isosteres. "Polypeptide" refers to both short chains, commonly referred to as peptides, oligopeptides or oligomers, and to longer chains, generally referred to as proteins. Polypeptides may contain amino acids other than the 20 gene-encoded amino acids. "Polypeptides" include amino acid sequences modified either by natural processes, such as posttranslational processing, or by chemical modification techniques which are well known in the art. Such modifications are well described in basic texts and in more detailed monographs, as well as in a voluminous research literature. Modifications can occur anywhere in a polypeptide, including the peptide backbone, the amino acid side-chains and the amino or carboxyl termini. It will be appreciated that the same type of modification may be present in the same or varying degrees at several sites in a given polypeptide. Also, a given polypeptide may contain many types of modifications. Polypeptides may be branched as a result of ubiquitination, and they may be cyclic, with or without branching. Cyclic, branched and branched cyclic polypeptides may result from posttranslation natural processes or may be made by synthetic methods. Modifications include acetylation, acylation, ADP-ribosylation, amidation, covalent attachment of flavin, covalent attachment of a heme moiety, covalent attachment of a nucleotide or nucleotide derivative, covalent attachment of a lipid or lipid derivative, covalent attachment of phosphotidylinositol. cross-linking, cyclization, disulfide bond formation, demethylation, formation of covalent cross-links, formation of cystine, formation of pyroglutamate, formylation, gamma-carboxylation, glycosylation, GPI anchor formation, hydroxylation, iodination, methylation, myristoylation, oxidation, proteolytic processing, phosphorylation, prenylation, racemization, selencylation, sulfation, transfer-RNA mediated addition of amino acids to proteins such as arginylation, and ubiquitination. See, for instance, PROTEINS - STRUCTURE AND MOLECULAR PROPERTIES, 2nd Ed., T. E. Creighton, W. H. Freeman and Company, New York, 1993 and Wold, F., Posttranslational Protein Modifications: Perspectives and Prospects, pgs. 1-12 in POSTTRANSLATIONAL COVALENT MODIFICATION OF PROTEINS, B. C. Johnson, Ed., Academic Press, New York, 1983; Seifter et al., "Analysis for protein modifications and nonprotein cofactors", Meth Enzymol (1990) 182:626-646 and Rattan et al., "Protein Synthesis: Posttranslational Modifications and Aging", Ann NY Acad Sci (1992) 663:48-62.

"Variant" as the term is used herein, is a polynucleotide or polypeptide that differs from a reference polynucleotide or polypeptide respectively, but retains essential properties. A typical variant of a polynucleotide differs in nucleotide sequence from another, reference polynucleotide. Changes in the nucleotide sequence of the variant may or may not alter the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by the reference polynucleotide. Nucleotide changes may result in amino acid substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations in the polypeptide encoded by the reference sequence, as discussed below. A typical variant of a polypeptide differs in amino acid sequence from another, reference polypeptide. Generally, differences are limited so that the sequences of the reference polypeptide and the variant are closely similar overall and, in many regions, identical. A variant and reference polypeptide may differ in amino acid sequence by one or more substitutions, additions, deletions in any combination. A substituted or inserted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code. A variant of a polynucleotide or polypeptide may be a naturally occurring such as an allelic variant, or it may be a variant that is not known to occur naturally. Non-naturally occurring variants of polynucleotides and polypeptides may be made by mutagenesis techniques or by direct synthesis.

"Identity" is a measure of the identity of nucleotide sequences or amino acid sequences. In general, the sequences are aligned so that the highest order match is obtained. "Identity" per se has an art-recognized meaning and can be calculated using published techniques. See, e.g.: (COMPUTATIONAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, Lesk, A.M., ed., Oxford University Press, New York, 1988; BIOCOMPUTING: INFORMATICS AND GENOME PROJECTS, Smith, D.W., ed., Academic Press, New York, 1993; COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF SEQUENCE DATA, PART I, Griffin, A.M., and Griffin, H.G., eds., Humana Press, New Jersey, 1994; SEQUENCE ANALYSIS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, von Heinje, G., Academic Press, 1987; and SEQUENCE ANALYSIS PRIMER, Gribskov, M. and Devereux, J., eds., M Stockton Press, New York, 1991). While there exist a number of methods to measure identity between two polynucleotide or polypeptide sequences, the term "identity" is well known to skilled artisans (Carillo, H., and Lipton, D., SIAM J Applied Math (1988) 48:1073). Methods commonly employed to determine identity or similarity between two sequences include, but are not limited to, those disclosed in Guide to Huge Computers, Martin J. Bishop, ed., Academic Press, San Diego, 1994, and Carillo, H., and Lipton, D., SIAM J Applied Math (1988) 48:1073. Methods to determine identity and similarity are codified in computer programs. Preferred computer program methods to determine identity and similarity between two sequences include, but are not limited to, GCS program package (Devereux, J., et al., Nucleic Acids Research (1984)

12(1):387), BLASTP, BLASTN, FASTA (Atschul, S.F. et al., J Molec Biol (1990) 215:403).

Polypeptides of the Invention

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The Human GPR14 polypeptides of the present invention include the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 (in particular the mature polypeptide) as well as Human GPR14 polypeptides and which have at least 84.25% identity to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or the relevant portion and more preferably at least 85% identity, and still more preferably at least 90% identity, and even still more preferably at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2.

The Human GPR14 polypeptides may be in the form of the "mature" protein or may be a part of a larger protein such as a fusion protein. It is often advantageous to include an additional amino acid sequence which contains secretory or leader sequences, pro-sequences, sequences which aid in purification such as multiple histidine residues, or an additional sequence for stability during recombinant production.

Biologically active fragments of the Human GPR14 polypeptides are also included in the invention. A fragment is a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence that entirely is the same as part, but not all, of the amino acid sequence of the aforementioned Human GPR14 polypeptides. As with Human GPR14 polypeptides, fragments may be "free-standing," or comprised within a larger polypeptide of which they form a part or region, most preferably as a single continuous region. Representative examples of polypeptide fragments of the invention, include, for example, fragments from about amino acid number 1-20, 21-40, 41-60, 61-80, 81-100, and 101 to the end of Human GPR14 polypeptide. In this context "about" includes the particularly recited ranges larger or smaller by several, 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1 amino acid at either extreme or at both extremes.

Preferred fragments include, for example, truncation polypeptides having the amino acid sequence of Human GPR14 polypeptides, except for deletion of a continuous series of residues that includes the amino terminus, or a continuous series of residues that includes the carboxyl terminus or deletion of two continuous series of residues, one including the amino terminus and one including the carboxyl terminus. Also preferred are fragments characterized by structural or functional attributes such as fragments that comprise alpha-helix and alpha-helix forming regions, beta-sheet and beta-sheet-forming regions, turn and turn-forming regions, coil and coil-forming regions, hydrophilic regions, hydrophobic regions, alpha amphipathic regions, beta amphipathic regions, flexible regions, surface-forming regions, substrate binding region, and high antigenic index regions. Biologically active fragments are those that mediate receptor activity, including those with a similar activity or an improved activity, or with a decreased undesirable activity. Also included are those that are antigenic or immunogenic in an animal, especially in a human.

Thus, the polypeptides of the invention include polypeptides having an amino acid sequence at least 84.25% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or fragments thereof with at least 84.25% identity to the corresponding fragment of SEQ ID NO:2. Preferably, all of these polypeptides retain the biological activity of the receptor, including antigenic activity. Included in this group are variants of the defined sequence and fragments. Preferred variants are those that vary from the referents by conservative amino acid substitutions -- i.e., those that substitute a residue with another of like characteristics. Typical such substitutions are among Ala, Val, Leu and IIe; among Ser and Thr; among the acidic residues Asp and Glu; among Asn and Gln; and among the basic residues Lys and Arg; or aromatic residues Phe and Tyr. Particularly preferred are variants in which several, 5-10, 1-5, or 1-2 amino acids are substituted, deleted, or added in any combination.

The Human GPR14 polypeptides of the invention can be prepared in any suitable manner. Such polypeptides include isolated naturally occurring polypeptides, recombinantly produced polypeptides, synthetically produced polypeptides, or polypeptides produced by a combination of these methods. Means for preparing such polypeptides are well understood in the art.

45 Polynucleotides of the Invention

Another aspect of the invention relates to isolated polynucleotides which encode the Human GPR14 polypeptides and polynucleotides closely related thereto.

Human GPR14 of the invention is structurally related to other proteins of the G-Protein coupled receptor, as shown by the results of sequencing the cDNA encoding Human GPR14. The cDNA sequence contains an open reading frame encoding a protein of 390 with a deduced molecular weight of kDa. Human GPR14 of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) has about 84.25% identity (using Fasta) in 387 amino acid residues with Rattus norvegicus GPR14 orphan receptor (A. Marches, et al., Genomics 29(2):335-344, 1995). Furthermore, human GPR14 (SEQ. ID NO:2) is 31.7% identical to human Somatostatin-3 receptor over 331 amino acid residues (Y. Yamada et al., Mol. Endocrinol. 6(12):2136-2142, 1992). Human GPR14 gene of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) has about 75.9% identity (using blast) in 1539 bp nucleotide residues with Rattus norvegicus GPR14 orphan receptor (A. Marches, et al., Genomics 29(2): 335-344, 1995). Furthermore, human GGPR14(SEQ. ID NO:1) is 79% identical over 783bp to Rattus norvegicus G- protein couple receptor SENR (M. Tal, et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 209(2):752-759 1995.)

One polynucleotide of the present invention encoding Human GPR14 may be obtained using standard cloning and screening, from a cDNA library derived from mRNA in cells of human placenta using the expressed sequence tag (EST) analysis (Adams, M.D., et al., Science (1991) 252:1651-1656; Adams, M.D. et al., Nature, (1992) 355:632-634; Adams, M.D., et al., Nature (1995) 377 Supp:3- 174). Polynucleotides of the invention can also be obtained from natural sources such as genomic DNA libraries or can be synthesized using well known and commercially available techniques.

Thus, the nucleotide sequence encoding Human GPR14 polypeptides may be identical over its entire length to the coding sequence in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1), or may be a degenerate form of this nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or may be highly identical to a nucleotide sequence that encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. Preferably, the polynucleotides of the invention contain a nucleotide sequence that is highly identical, at least 75.9% identical, with a nucleotide sequence encoding a Human GPR14 polypeptide, or at least 75.9% identical with the encoding nucleotide sequence set forth in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1), or at least 75.9% identical to a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

When the polynucleotides of the invention are used for the recombinant production of Human GPR14 polypeptide, the polynucleotide may include the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide or a fragment thereof, by itself, the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide or fragment in reading frame with other coding sequences, such as those encoding a leader or secretory sequence, a pre-, or pro- or prepro- protein sequence, or other fusion peptide portions. For example, a marker sequence which facilitates purification of the fused polypeptide can be encoded. In certain preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention, the marker sequence is a hexa-histidine peptide, as provided in the pQE vector (Qiagen, Inc.) and described in Gentz et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci USA (1989) 86:821-824, or is an HA tag. The polynucleotide may also contain non-coding 5' and 3' sequences, such as transcribed, non-translated sequences, splicing and polyadenylation signals, ribosome binding sites and sequences that stabilize mRNA.

Among particularly preferred embodiments of the invention are polynucleotides encoding Human GPR14 polypeptides having the amino acid sequence of set out in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) and variants thereof.

Further preferred embodiments are polynucleotides encoding Human GPR14 variants that have the amino acid sequence of the Human GPR14 of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) in which several, 5-10, 1-5, 1-3, 1-2 or 1 amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination.

Further preferred embodiments of the invention are polynucleotides that are at least 75.9% identical over their entire length to a polynucleotide encoding the Human GPR14 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set out in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2), and polynucleotides which are complementary to such polynucleotides. In this regard, polynucleotides at least 80% identical over their entire length to the same are particularly preferred, and those with at least 90% are especially preferred. Furthermore, those with at least 97% are highly preferred and those with at least 98-99% are most highly preferred, with at least 99% being the most preferred.

The present invention further relates to polynucleotides that hybridize to the herein above-described sequences. In this regard, the present invention especially relates to polynucleotides which hybridize under stringent conditions to the herein above-described polynucleotides. As herein used, the term "stringent conditions" means hybridization will occur only if there is at least 95% and preferably at least 97% identity between the sequences.

Polynucleotides of the invention, which are sufficiently identical to a nucleotide sequence contained in SEQ ID NO:1, may be used as hybridization probes for cDNA and genomic DNA, to isolate full-length cDNAs and genomic clones encoding Human GPR14 and to isolate cDNA and genomic clones of other genes that have a high sequence similarity to the Human GPR14 gene. Such hybridization techniques are known to those of skill in the art. Typically these nucleotide sequences are 70% identical, preferably 80% identical, more preferably 90% identical to that of the referent. The probes generally will comprise at least 15 nucleotides. Preferably, such probes will have at least 30 nucleotides and may have at least 50 nucleotides. Particularly preferred probes will range between 30 and 50 nucleotides.

The polynucleotides and polypeptides of the present invention may be employed as research reagents and materials for discovery of treatments and diagnostics to animal and human disease.

Vectors, Host Cells, Expression

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The present invention also relates to vectors which comprise a polynucleotide or polynucleotides of the present invention, and host cells which are genetically engineered with vectors of the invention and to the production of polypeptides of the invention by recombinant techniques. Cell-free translation systems can also be employed to produce such proteins using RNAs derived from the DNA constructs of the present invention.

For recombinant production, host cells can be genetically engineered to incorporate expression systems or portions thereof for polynucleotides of the present invention. Introduction of polynucleotides into host cells can be effected by methods described in many standard laboratory manuals, such as Davis et al., BASIC METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (1986) and Sambrook et al., MOLECULAR CLONING: A LABORATORY MANUAL, 2nd Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1989) such as calcium phosphate transfection, DEAE-dextran mediated transfection, transvection, microinjection, cationic lipid-mediated transfection, electroporation, transduction,

scrape loading, ballistic introduction or infection.

Representative examples of appropriate hosts include bacterial cells, such as streptococci, staphylococci, *E. coli*, *Streptomyces* and *Bacillus subtilis cells*; fungal cells, such as yeast cells and *Aspergillus* cells; insect cells such as *Drosophila* S2 and *Spodoptera* Sf9 cells; animal cells such as CHO, COS, HeLa, C127, 3T3, BHK, 293 and Bowes melanoma cells; and plant cells.

A great variety of expression systems can be used. Such systems include, among others, chromosomal, episomal and virus-derived systems, e.g., vectors derived from bacterial plasmids, from bacteriophage, from transposons, from yeast episomes, from insertion elements, from yeast chromosomal elements, from viruses such as baculoviruses, papova viruses, such as SV40, vaccinia viruses, adenoviruses, fowl pox viruses, pseudorabies viruses and retroviruses, and vectors derived from combinations thereof, such as those derived from plasmid and bacteriophage genetic elements, such as cosmids and phagemids. The expression systems may contain control regions that regulate as well as engender expression. Generally, any system or vector suitable to maintain, propagate or express polynucleotides to produce a polypeptide in a host may be used. The appropriate nucleotide sequence may be inserted into an expression system by any of a variety of well-known and routine techniques, such as, for example, those set forth in Sambrook *et al.*, *MOLECULAR CLONING, A LABORATORY MANUAL* (*supra*).

For secretion of the translated protein into the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum, into the periplasmic space or into the extracellular environment, appropriate secretion signals may be incorporated into the desired polypeptide. These signals may be endogenous to the polypeptide or they may be heterologous signals.

If the Human GPR14 polypeptide is to be expressed for use in screening assays, generally, it is preferred that the polypeptide be produced at the surface of the cell. In this event, the cells may be harvested prior to use in the screening assay. If Human GPR14 polypeptide is secreted into the medium, the medium can be recovered in order to recover and purify the polypeptide; if produced intracellularly, the cells must first be lysed before the polypeptide is recovered.

Human GPR14 polypeptides can be recovered and purified from recombinant cell cultures by well-known methods including ammonium sulfate or ethanol precipitation, acid extraction, anion or cation exchange chromatography, phosphocellulose chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, affinity chromatography, hydroxylapatite chromatography and lectin chromatography. Most preferably, high performance liquid chromatography is employed for purification. Well known techniques for refolding proteins may be employed to regenerate active conformation when the polypeptide is denatured during isolation and or purification.

30 Diagnostic Assays

This invention also relates to the use of Human GPR14 polynucleotides for use as diagnostic reagents. Detection of a mutated form of Human GPR14 gene associated with a dysfunction will provide a diagnostic tool that can add to or define a diagnosis of a disease or susceptibility to a disease which results from under-expression, over-expression or altered expression of Human GPR14. Individuals carrying mutations in the Human GPR14 gene may be detected at the DNA level by a variety of techniques.

Nucleic acids for diagnosis may be obtained from a subject's cells, such as from blood, urine, saliva, tissue biopsy or autopsy material. The genomic DNA may be used directly for detection or may be amplified enzymatically by using PCR or other amplification techniques prior to analysis. RNA or cDNA may also be used in similar fashion. Deletions and insertions can be detected by a change in size of the amplified product in comparison to the normal genotype. Point mutations can be identified by hybridizing amplified DNA to labeled Human GPR14 nucleotide sequences. Perfectly matched sequences can be distinguished from mismatched duplexes by RNase digestion or by differences in melting temperatures. DNA sequence differences may also be detected by alterations in electrophoretic mobility of DNA fragments in gels, with or without denaturing agents, or by direct DNA sequencing. See, e.g., Myers et al., Science (1985) 230:1242. Sequence changes at specific locations may also be revealed by nuclease protection assays, such as RNase and S1 protection or the chemical cleavage method. See Cotton et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci USA (1985) 85: 4397-4401.

The diagnostic assays offer a process for diagnosing or determining a susceptibility to infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles dela Tourett's syndrome through detection of mutation in the Human GPR14 gene by the methods described.

In addition, infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium,

dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles dela Tourett's syndrome, can be diagnosed by methods comprising determining from a sample derived from a subject an abnormally decreased or increased level of Human GPR14 polypeptide or Human GPR14 mRNA. Decreased or increased expression can be measured at the RNA level using any of the methods well known in the art for the quantitation of polynucleotides, such as, for example, PCR, RT-PCR, RNase protection, Northern blotting and other hybridization methods. Assay techniques that can be used to determine levels of a protein, such as an Human GPR14, in a sample derived from a host are well-known to those of skill in the art. Such assay methods include radioimmunoassays, competitive-binding assays, Western Blot analysis and ELISA assays.

Chromosome Assays

The nucleotide sequences of the present invention are also valuable for chromosome identification. The sequence is specifically targeted to and can hybridize with a particular location on an individual human chromosome. The mapping of relevant sequences to chromosomes according to the present invention is an important first step in correlating those sequences with gene associated disease. Once a sequence has been mapped to a precise chromosomal location, the physical position of the sequence on the chromosome can be correlated with genetic map data. Such data are found, for example, in V. McKusick, Mendelian Inheritance in Man (available on line through Johns Hopkins University Welch Medical Library). The relationship between genes and diseases that have been mapped to the same chromosomal region are then identified through linkage analysis (coinheritance of physically adjacent genes). The differences in the cDNA or genomic sequence between affected and unaffected individuals can also be determined. If a mutation is observed in some or all of the affected individuals but not in any normal individuals, then the mutation is likely to be the causative agent of the disease.

Antibodies

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The polypeptides of the invention or their fragments or analogs thereof, or cells expressing them can also be used as immunogens to produce antibodies immunospecific for the Human GPR14 polypeptides. The term "immunospecific" means that the antibodies have substantiall greater affinity for the polypeptides of the invention than their affinity for other related polypeptides in the prior art.

Antibodies generated against the Human GPR14 polypeptides can be obtained by administering the polypeptides or epitope-bearing fragments, analogs or cells to an animal, preferably a nonhuman, using routine protocols. For preparation of monoclonal antibodies, any technique which provides antibodies produced by continuous cell line cultures can be used. Examples include the hybridoma technique (Kohler, G. and Milstein, C., Nature (1975) 256:495-497), the trioma technique, the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kozbor et al., Immunology Today (1983) 4:72) and the EBV-hybridoma technique (Cole et al., MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES AND CANCER THERAPY, pp. 77-96, Alan R. Liss, Inc., 1985).

Techniques for the production of single chain antibodies (U.S. Patent No. 4,946,778) can also be adapted to produce single chain antibodies to polypeptides of this invention. Also, transgenic mice, or other organisms including other mammals, may be used to express humanized antibodies.

The above-described antibodies may be employed to isolate or to identify clones expressing the polypeptide or to purify the polypeptides by affinity chromatography.

Antibodies against Human GPR14 polypeptides may also be employed to treat infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles dela Tourett's syndrome, among others.

Vaccines

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Another aspect of the invention relates to a method for inducing an immunological response in a mammal which comprises inoculating the mammal with Human GPR14 polypeptide, or a fragment thereof, adequate to produce antibody and/or T cell immune response to protect said animal from infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles dela Tourett's syndrome, among others. Yet another aspect of the invention relates to a

method of inducing immunological response in a mammal which comprises, delivering Human GPR14 gene via a vector directing expression of Human GPR14 polypeptide *in vivo* in order to induce such an immunological response to produce antibody to protect said animal from diseases.

Further aspect of the invention relates to an immunological/vaccine formulation (composition) which, when introduced into a mammalian host, induces an immunological response in that mammal to a Human GPR14 polypeptide wherein the composition comprises a Human GPR14 polypeptide or Human GPR14 gene. The vaccine formulation may further comprise a suitable carrier. Since Human GPR14 polypeptide may be broken down in the stomach, it is preferably administered parenterally (including subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, intradermal etc. injection). Formulations suitable for parenteral administration include aqueous and non-aqueous sterile injection solutions which may contain anti-oxidants, buffers, bacteriostats and solutes which render the formulation instonic with the blood of the recipient; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions which may include suspending agents or thickening agents. The formulations may be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose containers, for example, sealed ampoules and vials and may be stored in a freeze-dried condition requiring only the addition of the sterile liquid carrier immediately prior to use. The vaccine formulation may also include adjuvant systems for enhancing the immunogenicity of the formulation, such as oil-in water systems and other systems known in the art. The dosage will depend on the specific activity of the vaccine and can be readily determined by routine experimentation.

Screening Assays

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The Human GPR14 of the present invention may be employed in a screening process for compounds which bind the receptor and which activate (agonists) or inhibit activation of (antagonists) the receptor polypeptide of the present invention. Thus, polypeptides of the invention may also be used to assess the binding of small molecule substrates and ligands in, for example, cells, cell-free preparations, chemical libraries, and natural product mixtures. These substrates and ligands may be natural substrates and ligands or may be structural or functional mimetics. See Coligan et al., Current Protocols in Immunology 1(2):Chapter 5 (1991).

Human GPR14 proteins are ubiquitous in the mammalian host and are responsible for many biological functions, including many pathologies. Accordingly, it is desirous to find compounds and drugs which stimulate Human GPR14 on the one hand and which can inhibit the function of Human GPR14 on the other hand. In general, agonists are employed for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes for such conditions as infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles dela Tourett's syndrome. Antagonists may be employed for a variety of therapeutic and prophylactic purposes for such conditions as infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, particularly infections caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2; pain; cancers; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; osteoporosis; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; benign prostatic hypertrophy; and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles dela Tourett's syndrome.

In general, such screening procedures involve producing appropriate cells which express the receptor polypeptide of the present invention on the surface thereof. Such cells include cells from mammals, yeast, *Drosophila or E. coli*. Cells expressing the receptor (or cell membrane containing the expressed receptor) are then contacted with a test compound to observe binding, or stimulation or inhibition of a functional response.

One screening technique includes the use of cells which express receptor of this invention (for example, transfected CHO cells) in a system which measures extracellular pH or intracellular calcium changes caused by receptor activation. In this technique, compounds may be contacted with cells expressing the receptor polypeptide of the present invention. A second messenger response, e.g., signal transduction, pH changes, or changes in calcium level, is then measured to determine whether the potential compound activates or inhibits the receptor.

Another method involves screening for receptor inhibitors by determining inhibition or stimulation of receptor-mediated cAMP and/or adenylate cyclase accumulation. Such a method involves transfecting a eukaryotic cell with the receptor of this invention to express the receptor on the cell surface. The cell is then exposed to potential antagonists in the presence of the receptor of this invention. The amount of cAMP accumulation is then measured. If the potential antagonist binds the receptor, and thus inhibits receptor binding, the levels of receptor-mediated cAMP, or adenylate cyclase, activity will be reduced or increased.

Another methods for detecting agonists or antagonists for the receptor of the present invention is the yeast based technology as described in U.S. Patent 5,482,835.

The assays may simply test binding of a candidate compound wherein adherence to the cells bearing the receptor

is detected by means of a label directly or indirectly associated with the candidate compound or in an assay involving competition with a labeled competitor. Further, these assays may test whether the candidate compound results in a signal generated by activation of the receptor, using detection systems appropriate to the cells bearing the receptor at their surfaces. Inhibitors of activation are generally assayed in the presence of a known agonist and the effect on activation by the agonist by the presence of the candidate compound is observed. Standard methods for conducting such screening assays are well understood in the art.

Examples of potential Human GPR14 antagonists include antibodies or, in some cases, oligonucleotides or proteins which are closely related to the ligand of the Human GPR14, e.g., a fragment of the ligand, or small molecules which bind to the receptor but do not elicit a response, so that the activity of the receptor is prevented.

Prophylactic and Therapeutic Methods

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This invention provides methods of treating an abnormal conditions related to both an excess of and insufficient amounts of Human GPR14 activity.

If the activity of Human GPR14 is in excess, several approaches are available. One approach comprises administering to a subject an inhibitor compound (antagonist) as hereinabove described along with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in an amount effective to inhibit activation by blocking binding of ligands to the Human GPR14, or by inhibiting a second signal, and thereby alleviating the abnormal condition.

In another approach, soluble forms of Human GPR14 polypeptides still capable of binding the ligand in competition with endogenous Human GPR14 may be administered. Typical embodiments of such competitors comprise fragments of the Human GPR14 polypeptide.

In still another approach, expression of the gene encoding endogenous Human GPR14 can be inhibited using expression blocking techniques. Known such techniques involve the use of antisense sequences, either internally generated or separately administered. See, for example, O'Connor, *J Neurochem* (1991) 56:560 in Oligodeoxynucleotides as Antisense Inhibitors of Gene Expression, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL (1988). Alternatively, oligonucleotides which form triple helices with the gene can be supplied. See, for example, Lee *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res* (1979) 6:3073; Cooney *et al.*, *Science* (1988) 241:456; Dervan *et al.*, *Science* (1991) 251:1360. These oligomers can be administered *per se* or the relevant oligomers can be expressed *in vivo*.

For treating abnormal conditions related to an under-expression of Human GPR14 and its activity, several approaches are also available. One approach comprises administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which activates Human GPR14, i.e., an agonist as described above, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, to thereby alleviate the abnormal condition. Alternatively, gene therapy may be employed to effect the endogenous production of Human GPR14 by the relevant cells in the subject. For example, a polynucleotide of the invention may be engineered for expression in a replication defective retroviral vector, as discussed above. The retroviral expression construct may then be isolated and introduced into a packaging cell transduced with a retroviral plasmid vector containing RNA encoding a polypeptide of the present invention such that the packaging cell now produces infectious viral particles containing the gene of interest. These producer cells may be administered to a subject for engineering cells *in vivo* and expression of the polypeptide *in vivo*. For overview of gene therapy, see Chapter 20, Gene Therapy and other Molecular Genetic-based Therapeutic Approaches, (and references cited therein) in Human Molecular Genetics, T Strachan and A P Read, BIOS Scientific Publishers Ltd (1996).

Formulation and Administration

Peptides, such as the soluble form of Human GPR14 polypeptides, and agonists and antagonist peptides or small molecules, may be formulated in combination with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier. Such formulations comprise a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide or compound, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. Such carriers include but are not limited to, saline, buffered saline, dextrose, water, glycerof, ethanol, and combinations thereof. Formulation should suit the mode of administration, and is well within the skill of the art. The invention further relates to pharmaceutical packs and kits comprising one or more containers filled with one or more of the ingredients of the aforementioned compositions of the invention.

Polypeptides and other compounds of the present invention may be employed alone or in conjunction with other compounds, such as therapeutic compounds.

Preferred forms of systemic administration of the pharmaceutical compositions include injection, typically by intravenous injection. Other injection routes, such as subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intraperitoneal, can be used. Alternative means for systemic administration include transmucosal and transdermal administration using penetrants such as bile salts or fusidic acids or other detergents. In addition, if properly formulated in enteric or encapsulated formulations, oral administration may also be possible. Administration of these compounds may also be topical and/or localized, in the form of salves, pastes, gels and the like.

The dosage range required depends on the choice of peptide, the route of administration, the nature of the formulation, the nature of the subject's condition, and the judgment of the attending practitioner. Suitable dosages, however, are in the range of $0.1-100~\mu g/kg$ of subject. Wide variations in the needed dosage, however, are to be expected in view of the variety of compounds available and the differing efficiencies of various routes of administration. For example, oral administration would be expected to require higher dosages than administration by intravenous injection. Variations in these dosage levels can be adjusted using standard empirical routines for optimization, as is well understood in the art.

Polypeptides used in treatment can also be generated endogenously in the subject, in treatment modalities often referred to as "gene therapy" as described above. Thus, for example, cells from a subject may be engineered with a polynucleotide, such as a DNA or RNA, to encode a polypeptide *ex vivo*, and for example, by the use of a retroviral plasmid vector. The cells are then introduced into the subject.

Examples

The examples below are carried out using standard techniques, which are well known and routine to those of skill in the art, except where otherwise described in detail. The examples illustrate, but do not limit the invention.

Example 1

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A 1.2 kb PCR fragment corrosponding to the entire coding region of the Rattus norvegicus orphan receptor (GPR14, A. Marchese et al. Genomics, 29(2): 335-44, 1995) was used as a probe to screen a total of .75M plaques from a Human Genomic Placenta library (Stratagene, LaJolla CA, Cat. # 946206). The genomic library screening procedure is described by (Elgin, et al. Stratatgies 4: 8-9, 1991). The probes were α -32P labeled, using Random Primed Labeling Kit (Boheringer Manheim, Germany, Cat. # 1585584) and purified by running over Sephadex G-50 columns (Pharmacia Biotech. Cat. # 17-0855-02) The hybirdization and washing conditions were according to (J. Sambrook, E.F. Fritch and T. Maniatis (1989) A Laboratory Manaul Second. Ed. Vol. 1 pp. 2.69-2.81 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York). One Positive phage clone obtained form above screen was further purified. Southern analysis were carried out on digested phage DNA and a 9 kb Sac I fragment hybirdized for this clone. This fragment was subcloned into pBlueScript KS vector, and further digested with EcoRI and southern analyzed. A smaller 5kb fragment hybirdized to the rat GPR14 probe mentioned above was subcloned into pBlueScript for sequence analysis, the sequence was determined by automated sequencer. A total of 2126 bp were sequenced, this includes an open reading frame enconding a peptide of 390 residues. This sequence is highly homologus to Rat GPR14, as shown by sequence comparisons and also by fasta analysis against the Genbank nucleotid data base.

Example 2: Mammalian Cell Expression

The receptors of the present invention are expressed in either human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK293) cells or adherent dhfr CHO cells. To maximize receptor expression, typically all 5' and 3' untranslated regions (UTRs) are removed from the receptor cDNA prior to insertion into a pCDN or pCDNA3 vector. The cells are transfected with individual receptor cDNAs by lipofectin and selected in the presence of 400 mg/ml G418. After 3 weeks of selection, individual clones are picked and expanded for further analysis. HEK293 or CHO cells transfected with the vector alone serve as negative controls. To isolate cell lines stably expressing the individual receptors, about 24 clones are typically selected and analyzed by Northern blot analysis. Receptor mRNAs are generally detectably in about 50% of the G418-resistant clones analyzed.

45 Example 3 Ligand bank for binding and functional assays.

A bank of over 200 putative receptor ligands has been assembled for screening. The bank comprises: transmitters, hormones and chemokines known to act via a human seven transmembrane (7TM) receptor; naturally occurring compounds which may be putative agonists for a human 7TM receptor, non-mammalian, biologically active peptides for which a mammalian counterpart has not yet been identified; and compounds not found in nature, but which activate 7TM receptors with unknown natural ligands. This bank is used to initially screen the receptor for known ligands, using both functional (i.e. calcium, cAMP, microphysiometer, oocyte electrophysiology, etc, see below) as well as binding assays.

55 Example 4: Ligand Binding Assays

Ligand binding assays provide a direct method for ascertaining receptor pharmacology and are adaptable to a high throughput format. The purified ligand for a receptor is radiolabeled to high specific activity (50-2000 Ci/mmol) for bind-

ing studies. A determination is then made that the process of radiolabeling does not diminish the activity of the ligand towards its receptor. Assay conditions for buffers, ions, pH and other modulators such as nucleotides are optimized to establish a workable signal to noise ratio for both membrane and whole cell receptor sources. For these assays, specific receptor binding is defined as total associated radioactivity minus the radioactivity measured in the presence of an excess of unlabeled competing ligand. Where possible, more than one competing ligand is used to define residual non-specific binding.

Example 5: Functional Assay in Xenopus Oocytes

Capped RNA transcripts from linearized plasmid templates encoding the receptor cDNAs of the invention are synthesized in vitro with RNA polymerases in accordance with standard procedures. In vitro transcripts are suspended in water at a final concentration of 0.2 mg/ml. Ovarian lobes are removed from adult female toads, Stage V defolliculated oocytes are obtained, and RNA transcripts (10 ng/oocyte) are injected in a 50 nl bolus using a microinjection apparatus. Two electrode voltage clamps are used to measure the currents from individual Xenopus oocytes in response to agonist exposure. Recordings are made in Ca2+ free Barth's medium at room temperature. The Xenopus system can be used to screen known ligands and tissue/cell extracts for activating ligands.

Example 6: Microphysiometric Assays

Activation of a wide variety of secondary messenger systems results in extrusion of small amounts of acid from a cell. The acid formed is largely as a result of the increased metabolic activity required to fuel the intracellular signaling process. The pH changes in the media surrounding the cell are very small but are detectable by the CYTOSENSOR microphysiometer (Molecular Devices Ltd., Menlo Park, CA). The CYTOSENSOR is thus capable of detecting the activation of a receptor which is coupled to an energy utilizing intracellular signaling pathway such as the G-protein coupled receptor of the present invention.

Example 7: Extract/Cell Supernatant Screening

A large number of mammalian receptors exist for which there remains, as yet, no cognate activating ligand (agonist). Thus, active ligands for these receptors may not be included within the ligands banks as identified to date. Accordingly, the 7TM receptor of the invention is also functionally screened (using calcium, cAMP, microphysiometer, oocyte electrophysiology, etc., functional screens) against tissue extracts to identify natural ligands. Extracts that produce positive functional responses can be sequencially subfractionated until an activating ligand is isolated identified.

Example 8: Calcium and cAMP Functional Assays

7TM receptors which are expressed in HEK 293 cells have been shown to be coupled functionally to activation of PLC and calcium mobilization and/or cAMP stimuation or inhibition. Basal calcium levels in the HEK 293 cells in receptor-transfected or vector control cells were observed to be in the normal, 100 nM to 200 nM, range. HEK 293 cells expressing recombinant receptors are loaded with fura 2 and in a single day > 150 selected ligands or tissue/cell extracts are evaluated for agonist induced calcium mobilization. Similarly, HEK 293 cells expressing recombinant receptors are evaluated for the stimulation or inhibition of cAMP production using standard cAMP quantitation assays. Agonists presenting a calcium transient or cAMP flucuation are tested in vector control cells to determine if the response is unique to the transfected cells expressing receptor.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

5	(1) GENERAL INFORMATION
	(i) APPLICANT: SmithKline Beecham Corporation
10	(ii) TITLE OF THE INVENTION: Cloning of Human GPR14 Receptor
	(iii) NUM EER OF SEQUENCES 2
	(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
15	(A) ADD RESSEE: F J Cleveland & Company
	(B) STREET: 40/43 Chancery Lane
	(C) CITY: London
	(D) STATE: -
20	(E) COUNTRY: United Kingdom
	(F) POST CODE: WC2A 1JQ
	(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
25	(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette
	(B) COMPUTER IBM Compatible
	(C) OPERATING SYSTEM DOS
	(D) SOFTWARE: FastSEQ for Windows Version 2.0
30	
	(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
	(A) APPLICATION NUMBER Unknown
	(B) FILING DATE: 27-JAN-1997
35	(C) CLASSIFICATION Unknown
	(vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
	(A) APPLICATION NUMBER
40	(B) FILING DATE:
45	(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
~	(A) NAME: CRUMP, Julian Richard John
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	(A) TELEPHONE: +44 171 405 5875	
	(B) TELEFAX: +44 171 831 0749	
_	(C) TELEX:	
5		
	(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:	
40		
10	(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:	
	(A) LENGTH: 2126 base pairs	
	(B) TYPE: nucleic acid	
	(C) ST RANDEDNESS: single	
15	(D) TOPOLOGY: linear	
	(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA	
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25	ATTTGGACTT TTAAAGTCAG TAGCTACTAG TTTTGCAATC TAAAGAAAAC ATTTTTTTAA	180
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	AGACAAGAAA GTGAGGCCTG GGGGGGCGCA CTGGGCAGAG CCCAGGACTC CCAGTTCTGT	300
	CCACTGCOGA CCTCTGCCCC AGGGGCTGCC CTCCTGTGTT COGGCTTTCA GAAAAGCCCA	360
30	GTT CAT CCCA GAGGCCATGG GACCTACAGT GAGGGGGGGG CAGGGGT CCT GCTGGGGCAT	4 20
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	GTGGT CAACC TGGCGCTGGC CGACCTGCTG TACCTGCTCA GCATCCCCTT CATCGTGGCC	1020
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45	GACTICCIGA CCATGCACGC CAGCATCTIC ACGCTGACCG TCATGAGCAG CGAGCGCTAC	1140
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50	CTCTAGGGC GCCTGGCCG GGCCTACGGC GGCCTCCTT CAAGGGGGCC	1440
	COGOGCOG GEGOCOCC GEGOCOCC GEGOCOCC CETOTGEGCC	1500
	TGCTTCCTGC CCTTCTGGCT GTGGCAGCTG CTCGCCCAGT ACCACCAGGC CCCGCTGGCG	1560

•	COGOGGACGG COGCATOGT CAACTACCTG ACCACCTGCC TCACCTACGG CAACAGCTGC 16	20
	GCCAACCCCT TCCTCTACAC GCTGCTCACC AGGAACTACC GCGACCACCT GCGCGGCCGC 16	80
5	GTG CGGGGCC CGGGCAGCGG GGGAGGCCCGG GGGCCCGTTC CCTCCCTGCA GCCCCGCGCC 17	40
•	CGCTT CCAGC GCTGTT CGGG CCGCT CCCTG TCTT CCTGCA GCCCACAGCC CACTGACAGC 18	00
	CT CCTGCTGG CCCCAGCGGC CCCGGCCCGA CCTGCGCCCG AGGGTCCCAG GGCCCCGGCG 18	60
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10	A CAMPAGE COMPAGE COMP	40
		00
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15	(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:	
	(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:	
	(A) LENGTH: 389 amino acids	
20	(B) TYPE: amino acid	
	(C) STRANDEDNESS: single	
	(D) TOPOLOGY: linear	
25	(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein	
	(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:	
30	Met Ala Leu Thr Pro Glu Ser Pro Ser Ser Phe Pro Gly Leu Ala Ala	
	1 5 10 15	
	Thr Gly Ser Ser Val Pro Glu Pro Pro Gly Gly Pro Asn Ala Thr Leu	
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35	Asn Ser Ser Trp Ala Ser Pro Thr Glu Pro Ser Ser Leu Glu Asp Leu	
	35 40 45	
	Val Ala Thr Gly Thr Ile Gly Thr Leu Leu Ser Ala Met Gly Val Val	
	50 55 60	
40	Gly Val Val Gly Asn Ala Tyr Thr Leu Val Val Thr Cys Arg Ser Leu	
	65 70 75 80	
	Arg Ala Val Ala Ser Met Tyr Val Tyr Val Val Asn Leu Ala Leu Ala	
	90 95	
45	Asp Leu Leu Tyr Leu Leu Ser Ile Pro Phe Ile Val Ala Thr Tyr Val	
45	100 105 110	
	Thr Lys Glu Trp His Phe Gly Asp Val Gly Cys Arg Val Leu Phe Gly	
	115 120 125	
50	Leu Asp Phe Leu Thr Met His Ala Ser Ile Phe Thr Leu Thr Val Met	
50	130 135 140	
	Ser Ser Glu Arg Tyr Ala Ala Val Leu Arg Pro Leu Asp Thr Val Gln	
	145 150 155 160	
55		

	Arg	Pro	Lys	Gly	Tyr 165	Arg	Lys	Leu	Leu	Ala 170		Gly	Thr	Τrp	Leu 175	
5		Leu		180					185					190		
	Arg	Gly	Pro 195	Lys	Ser	Leu	Cys	Leu 200	Pro	Ala	Trp	Gly	Pro 205	Arg	Ala	His
10	Arg	Ala 210	Tyr	Leu	Thr	Leu	Leu 215	Phe	Ala	Thr	Ser	Ile 220	Ala	Gly	Pro	Gly
	Leu 225	Leu	Ile	Gly	Leu	Leu 230	Tyr	Ala	Arg	Leu	Ala 235	Arg	Ala	Туг	Arg	Arg 240
15	Ser	Gln	Arg	Ala	Ser 245	Phe	Lys	Arg	Ala	Arg 250	Arg	Pro	Gly	Ala	Arg 255	
	Leu	Arg	Leu	Val 260	Leu	Gly	Ile	Val	Leu 265	Leu	Phe	Trp	Ala	Cys 270	Phe	Leu
20	Pro	Phe	T rp 275	Leu	Trp	Gln	Leu	Leu 280	Ala	Gln	Tyr	His	Gln 285	Ala	Pro	Leu
	Ala	Pro 290	Arg	Thr	Ala	Arg	Ile 295	Val	As n	Tyr	Leu	Thr	Thr	Cys	Leu	Thr
25	Tyr 305	Gly	Asn	Ser	Cys	Ala 310	Asn	Pro	Phe	Leu	Tyr 315	Thr	Leu	Leu	Thr	Arg
	Asn	Tyr	Arg	Asp	His 325	Leu	Arg	Gly	Arg	Val 330	Arg	Gly	Pro	Gly	Ser 335	Gly
30	Gly	Gly	Arg	Gly 340	Pro	Val	Pro	Ser	Leu 345	Gln	Pro	Arg	Ala	Arg 350	Phe	Gln
	Arg	Cys	Ser 355	Gly	Arg	Ser	Leu	Ser 360	Ser	Cys	Ser	Pro	Gln 365	Pro	Thr	Asp
<i>35</i>	Ser	Leu 370	Val	Leu	Ala	Pro	Ala 375	Ala	Pro	Ala		Pro 380	Ala	Pro	Glu	Gly
	Pro 385	Arg	Ala	Pro	Ala											

Claims

- An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 80% identity to a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypetide of SEQ ID NO:2 or the corresponding fragment thereof; or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said nucleotide sequence.
 - 2. The polynucleotide of claim 1 which is DNA or RNA.
- 50 3. The polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence is at least 80% identical to that contained in SEQ ID NO:1.
 - 4. The polynucleotide of claim 3 wherein said nucleotide sequence is contained in SEQ ID NO:1.
- 55 5. The polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said encoding nucleotide sequence encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof.
 - 6. A polynucleotide probe or primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of the polynucleotide of claim 3.

- 7. A DNA or RNA molecule comprising an expression system wherein said expression system is capable of producing a Human GPR14 or a fragment thereof having at least 80% identity with a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or said fragment when said expression system is present in a compatible host cell.
- 8. A host cell comprising the expression system of claim 7.
 - A process for producing a Human GPR14 polypeptide or fragment comprising culturing a host of claim 8 and under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide or fragment.
- 10. The process of claim 9 wherein said polypeptide or fragment is expressed at the surface of said cell.
 - 11. Cells produced by the process of claim 10.

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- 12. The process of claim 9 which further includes recovering the polypeptide or fragment from the culture.
- 13. A process for producing a cell which produces a Human GPR14 polypeptide or a fragment thereof comprising transforming or transfecting a host cell with the expression system of claim 7 such that the host cell, under appropriate culture conditions, produces a Human GPR14 polypeptide or fragment.
- 20 14. A Human GPR14 polypeptide or a fragment thereof comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence contained in SEQ ID NO:2.
 - 15. The polypeptide of claim 14 which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof.
- 25 16. A Human GPR14 polypeptide or fragment prepared by the method of claim 12.
 - 17. An antibody immunospecific for the Human GPR14 polypeptide of claim 14.
 - 18. A method for the treatment of a subject in need of enhanced Human GPR14 activity comprising:
 - (a) administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an agonist to said receptor; and/or
 - (b) providing to the subject Human GPR14 polynucleotide in a form so as to effect production of said receptor activity in vivo.
- 35 19. A method for the treatment of a subject having need to inhibit Human GPR14 activity comprising:
 - (a) administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist to said receptor; and/or
 - (b) administering to the subject a nucleic acid molecule that inhibits the expression of the nucleotide sequence encoding said receptor; and/or
 - (c) administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide that competes with said receptor for its ligand.
 - 20. A process for diagnosing a disease or a susceptibility to a disease in a subject related to expression or activity of Human GPR14 in a subject comprising:
 - (a) determining the presence or absence of a mutation in the nucleotide sequence encoding said Human GPR14 in the genome of said subject; and/or
 - (b) analyzing for the presence or amount of the Human GPR14 expression in a sample derived from said subject.
 - 21. A method for identifying compounds which bind to Human GPR14 comprising:
 - (a) contacting cells of claim 11 with a candidate compound; and
 - (b) assessing the ability of said candidate compound to bind to said cells.
 - 22. The method of claim 21 which further includes determining whether the candidate compound effects a signal generated by activation of the Human GPR14 polypeptide at the surface of the cell, wherein a candidate compound which effects production of said signal is identified as an agonist.

	23.	An agonist identified by the method of claim 22.
£	24.	The method of claim 21 which further includes contacting said cell with a known agonist for said Human GPR14; and
5		determining whether the signal generated by said agonist is diminished in the presence of said candidate com- pound, wherein a candidate compound which effects a diminution in said signal is identified as an antagonist for said Human GPR14.
10	25.	An antagonist identified by the method of claim 24.
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FIGURE 1. Nucleotide and Amino Acid sequence of Human GPR14 (SEQ ID NOS: 1 and 2, respectively.)

10	30	50									
GACAAAACTGGGTACGGGCCCCCCCCGAGGTCGACGGTATCGATAAGCTTGATATCGAAT											
70	90	110									
TCGTTTCCCTGTATGAGAAAT	GGAGATTGCAGAGGC	CTTCCTCTCCTTACATGTTCTTCT									
130	150	170									
ATTTGGACTTTTAAAGTCAGT	AGCTACTAGTTTTGC	AATCTAAAGAAAACATTTTTTAA									
190	210	230									
ATGTACAAGTCAAATAAATAC	GAgAAAGGACTCAGG	AGTAAGTGGGCCCCACCTGTGCAC									
250	270	290									
AGACAAgAAAGTGAGGCCTGG	GGGGCGCACTGGGC	Agagcccaggactcccagttctgt									
310	330	350									
CCACTGCCGACCTCTGCCCCA	GGGGCTGCCCTCCTG	TGTTCCGGCTTTCAGAAAAGCCCA									
370	390	410									
GTTCATCCCAgAgGCCATGGG	ACCTACAGTGAGGGG	GGGCAGGGTCCTGCTGGGGCAT									
430	450	470									
GCGGGGGTCgGGGAgGGGGGT	TGGGGCAGCTCGTCT	GGTGGCTCTTGAGTCCTCCTGCAG									
490	510	530									
AgCTGGTGGCTTCCAgAgAGT	CCCGAgagttggagg	SCACTGGGGAGCCCACGTGACTCT									
550	570	590									
GTGGGAACGAGGCCATCACAG	TGGCCTCCTGGGAgC	GGAAgGTGTTGCCTGATTTGCTTC									
610	630	650									
TTTCCCCACAGGCTGAgCTGG:	TTGCCCACAGGGGCC	CCCGCCCATCTCAGGGAGTGTCC									
670	690	710									
ACCCAGCCCTGAGCCCGTCgTC	GAGGGGTCAgAgATG	GCGCTGACCCCGAGTCCCCGAGC									
	м .	ALTPESPS									
730	750	770									
AGCTTCCCTGGGCTGGCCGCC	ACCGGCAGCTCTGTG	CCGGAGCCGCCTGGCGCCCCAAC									
SFPGLAA	TGSSV	PEPPGGPN									
790	810	830									
GCAACCCTCAACAGCTCCTGG	GCCAGCCCGACCGAG	CCCAGCTCCCTGGAGGACCTGGTG									
ATLNSSWI	ASPTE	PSSLEDLV									
850	870	890									
GCCACGGGCACCATTGGGACT	CTGCTGTCGGCCATG	GGCGTGGTGGGCAAC									
A T G T I G T 1	LLSAMO	G V V G V V G N									
910	930	950									
GCCTACACGCTGGTGGTCACC	TGCCGCTCCCTGCGT	GCGGTGGCCTCCATGTACGTCTAC									

A	Y	T L	v	v	T	С	R	S L	R	A	v	A	s	М	Y	v	Y
		970						990					1	010			
GT	GGT	CAACCI	GGC	GCT	GGC	CGA	.CC1	GCTGT	ACCI	GCI	CAG	CAT	CCC	CTT	CAT	CGT	GGCC
V	v	N L	A	L	A	D	L	L Y	L	L	s	I	P	F	I	v	A
		1030						1050					1	070			
AC	CTA	CGTCAC	CAA	\GGA	GTG	GCA	CTT	CGGGG	\cG1	GGG	CTG	CCG	CGI	GCT	CTT	CGG	CCTG
T	Y	V T	K	E	W	H	F	G D	V	G	С	R	V	L	F	G	L
		1090						1110					1	130			
GA	CTT	CCTGAC	CAT	GCA	CGC	CAG	CAT	CTTCA	CGCI	GAC	CGT	CAT	GAg	CAG	CGA	gCG	CTAC
D	F	L T	M	H	A	s	I	F T	L	T	v	M	s	s	E	R	Y
		1150						1170					1	190			
GC	TGC	GGTGCT	'GCG	GCC	GCT	GGA	CAC	CGTGC	AGCG	CCC	CAA	.GGG	CTA	CCG	CAA	GCT	GCTG
A	A	V L	R	P	L	D	T	V Q	R	P	K	G	Y	R	K	L	L
		1210						1230					1	250			
GC		GGGCAC								_							
A	L	G T	W	L	L	A	L	L L	T	L	P	V	M	L	A	M	R
		1270						1290						310			
CT	GGT	GCGCCG	GGG	TCc	CAA	gAg	CCI	GTGCC	rgcc	CGC	CTG	GGG	CCC	GCG	CGC	CCA	CCGC
L	V	R R	G	P	K	S	L	C L	P	A	W	G	P	R	A	H	R
		1330						1350						370			
GC	CTA	CCTGAC	:GCI	GCT	'CTT	CGC	CAC	CAGCA!	rcgc	:GGG	GCC	CGG	GCI	GCT	CAT	CGG	GCTG
A	Y	L T	L	L	F	A	T	S I	A	G	P	G	L	L	I	G	L
		1390						1410						430			
		CGCGCG															
L	Y		L	A	R	A	Y	R R	S	Q	R	A			K	R	A
		1450						1470						490			
		GCCGGG															
R	R	P G	A	R	A	L	R		L	G	Ι	V			F	W	A
		1510						1530						.550			
		CCTGCC															
С	F	L P	F	W	L	W	Q		A	Q	Y	Н	_		P	L	A
		1570						1590						610			
		GACGGC									-						
Р	R	T A	R	1	V	N	Y		Т	C	L	T				S	C
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R F Q R C S G R S L S S C S P Q P T D S 1830 $\tt CTCGTGCTGGCCCCAGCGGCCCGGGCCCGACCTGCGCCCGAGGGCCCCGGCG$ LVLAPAAPARPAPEGPRAPA 1870 1890 1910 1930 1950 1970 $\verb|CCCGGGAGCCCCCCAACTCCCAAATCACAGGCCCTGCCCCTCCTCCGTCCCCTTCTGGA|$ 2010 AAGATcCTGCTCGCTTCCCCTCAgCGCCCTTCCCGTGATGCCCAgAAgCGCCCAcCCGCC 2070 ${\tt TCCCTGAgGGTcTCCAgGAgGcTCCAgCGCAgTCCCGGCTTCTGGAgAcATGGcTTCgTC}$ 2110 ACAGAGGCAGCAGTGCCC



PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 97 30 9252 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

Category	Citation of document with in	dication, where appropriate,	Relevant	CLASSIFICATION OF THE		
oalogo, y	of relevant passa	iges	to claim	APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)		
D,X	GPR9 GPR10, AND GPR	OF THREE NOVEL GENES, 14, ENCODING RECEPTORS KIN 8, NEUROPEPTIDE Y, CEPTORS" September 1995, 0673922 "cloning of GPR14"		C12N15/12 C07K14/705 A61K38/17 C12N15/11 C12Q1/68 C07K16/28 A61K48/00 G01N33/74		
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not complibe carried Claims se Claims se Claims no	y with the EPC to such an extent that a cut, or can only be carried out partiall arched completely: arched incompletely: It searched:	application, or one or more of its claims, do a meaningful search into the state of the art y, for these claims.				
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		T : theory or princi	ple underlying the it			
X : part Y : part doos A : tech	ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS icularly relevant if taken alone icularly relevant if combined with another iment of the earne category inclogical background erritten disolosure	E : earlier patent d after the filing d ner D : document obse L : document obse	late d in the application I for other reasons			



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EP 97 30 9252

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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